NHB has, also, formulated guideline for providing financial assistance for land development and shelter projects undertaken by public agencies such as Housing Boards and Development authorities.

Expenses on Foreign Business Guests

2943. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision that the expenses on foreign business guests of multi-national companies will be met in Indian rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the visiting guests of companies have to get a certificate from the concerned companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank have issued a notification on 13th September 1991 granting general permission to persons resident in India, including Indian firms/companies and other organisations, to meet expenses in Indian Rupees on account of lodging, board and related services and for travel within India, of their non-resident guests visiting India in connection with business activity or any other work of the host without obtaining specific prior permission of the Reserve Bank. This decision was taken in pursuance of the liberalised Industrial Policy of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Talks on American Intellectual Property Rights

2944. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether US and India have decided to have a bilateral talks in Geneva regarding lack of protection to the American intellectual property rights in India;

(b) whether the talks have since been held;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and to what extent these have been fruitful; and

(d) the time by which the agreement reached in this regard is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). As part of the ongoing multilateral negotiations in the Uruguay Round at Geneva, there have been consultations between participants from time to time at bilateral and plurilateral levels. Such bilateral consultations have also been held with the United States on various issues under negotiation including on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs).

Though these consultations have helped to clarify the respective stands of India and the United States to each other, no agreement has been reached bilaterally in these consultations on the issue of TRIPs.

[*Translation*]

Trade Relations with Protugal

2945. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: